

809) (Linking claims must be examined with the invention elected, and should any linking claim be allowed, the restriction requirement must be withdrawn.)

Respectfully submitted,

March 28, 2003

Date

Karla M. Weyand

Karla M. Weyand
Reg. No. 40,223

Braman & Rogalskyj, LLP
P.O. Box 352
Canandaigua, New York 14424-0352
Tel: 716-626-5380
Fax: 716-626-5384

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Appendix (marked up version of claims)

25. (Amended) An isolated *Rickettsia felis* outer membrane protein encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.